

APPARATUS FOR GRIPPING CABLES

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Technical Field**

The present invention relates to cable installation in general, and, in particular, to an apparatus for gripping cables.

**2. Description of Related Art**

Twisted pair copper cables have traditionally been used within buildings to carry voice and data to equipment such as computers, telephones and the like. Typically, hundreds of meters of cables have to be run above ceiling or under floor to reach various equipment.

Referring now to the drawings and in particular to Figure 1, there is graphically illustrated an apparatus for gripping cables, according to the prior art. Cable installers typically pull a cable 20 from a drum 10 containing approximately 500 meters of cable 20. The end of cable 20 is placed within a pulling sock 30 that is made of a steel lattice. As cable 20 is being pulled, pulling sock 30 tightens around a specific length of cable 20 such that cable 20 is securely gripped by pulling sock 30.

Potential damages to a cable, such as cable 20, can be caused by the over-stretching of twisted pair conductors inside the insulating sheath of the cable. Over-stretching causes the distance between the twisted pairs to be reduced, giving rise to an increase in cross-talk and reducing the effectiveness of the cable. Thus, a pulling fuse 40 or a similar device is used to limit the force being applied to cable 20 when cable 20 is